

## Indiana Department of Environmental Management

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*(Text does not include verbatim comments)*

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Good afternoon... I was asked to speak today about my vision for the future at IDEM and talk about our relationship to the business community. I think you will see by my comments, that just about everything we do at IDEM has to do with our relationship with the business community.

Before I get into specifics, I'd like to give you a sense of the forces that drive my vision, not just of where IDEM is going in the near term, but where we all should be going in the longer-term.

When I use the word "we," I mean me and IDEM as representatives of government, you as representatives of the business community, and most importantly the people. Whether we call them taxpayers, voters or customers, they are who we all ultimately answer to.

As you know, our mission at IDEM is to protect human health and the environment from the effects of pollution. We talk about protecting the environment -- the water, the air, the land -- but in the final analysis, what IDEM does first and foremost is protect people. All of our work stems from that basic premise.

People -- including each of us in this room and our loved ones at home, at school and at work -- drink the water, breathe the air and touch the land every day of our lives.

Harmful substances that pollute the water, air and land pollute our bodies, and our children's bodies. And pollution's effects can last to cause problems for our children's children and their grandchildren. (Radio Ad B most important body of water-human body)

The people have the ultimate stake in how clean our environment is. So, it should come as no surprise that they have some very definite opinions of how **We** -- business, government and the people, -- should approach the task of protecting them from the adverse effects of pollution.

Before I go any further, I would like to commend Elkhart County industries for doing their part to make Indiana's environment cleaner and healthier. Your chamber of commerce will be demonstrating this fact in a little while by presenting the Eartha Awards. And I must say that I am honored to have been asked to be a part of this ceremony.

Likewise, I had the pleasure about two weeks ago to present a Middlebury company B Prodesign Composite B an Honorable Mention in the annual Governor's Awards for Excellence in Pollution Prevention.

Prodesign opened its facilities to the Indiana Clean Manufacturing Institute to perform an emissions study to evaluate the effectiveness of an operator training program for the fiber reinforced plastics industry. Because of Prodesign's commitment to protect the environment and its cooperation, the test showed that with a proper training program, styrene emissions can be reduced by about 22% and employee exposure levels can be reduced by 25%. If a representative of Prodesign is with us today, would you please stand so that we can applaud your effort.

Now, I would like to share some poll results, which you may find interesting. Those of you who have heard me speak recently may have already heard this, but bears repeating...

Between January 13<sup>th</sup> and January 16<sup>th</sup>, this year, a **CNN/Gallup/USA Today** poll asked 1,027 adults: "Which of these statements comes closer to your own point of view: 1) Protection of the environment should be given priority, even at the risk of curbing economic growth, or 2) Economic growth should be given priority, even if the environment suffers to some extent."

Tough question. But the outcome wasn't even close. 70% said the environment; 23% said economic growth. A three-to-one margin.

Those are fairly dramatic numbers, and you might say that the simplistic, one-or-the-other choice offered by the question doesn't mean much. But a closer look at historical polling data on the environment shows that this survey is indeed reflective of public opinion. Year after year, in poll after poll, people, in overwhelming numbers, have said they place a high priority on protecting the water, air and land.

A few highlights from a **Gallup poll** conducted in early April drive this point home.

94% of those polled said the environmental problems facing our country are serious. Specifically, 17% said "extremely serious," 38% said "Very serious" and 39% said "Somewhat serious."

Think about those numbers. **94% of the people believe we are facing serious environmental problems in our country.** That's nearly everyone. More than half, 55%, say those problems are "very" or "extremely" serious.

The poll asked people whether they personally worry about specific types of pollution. And again, the responses were very clear:

- **Drinking water pollution?** 72% said they worry "a great deal" about it; 20% said "a fair amount."
- **Pollution of rivers, lakes and reservoirs?** 66% said they worry "a great deal" about it; 24% said they worry "a fair amount."
- **Contamination of soil and water by toxic waste?** 64% said they worry "a great deal" about it; 25% said "a fair amount."
- **Air pollution?** 59% said they worry "a great deal" about it; 29% said "fair amount."

It's important to note that the majority of people polled -- **more than half** in each case -- **worry a great deal** about each of these critical areas of concern.

OK. That's enough numbers, for now, although I'll put you on notice that I'm saving the three most important figures for the end. In the meantime, I'm going to show you how this polling data relate to our vision and focus at IDEM.

Citizen concerns over water issues dominate the environmental landscape, not just in Indiana but across the nation. And why not? Water is, after all, the essence of life. It's tangible, we can see it, we can hear it, we can taste it, we can feel, and sometimes we can even smell it (although that is not always a good thing.)

It is true that we have made tremendous progress since the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland caught fire in 1969. We passed the Clean Water Act. Our water is cleaner and safer than at any time since the Industrial Revolution.

But take a look at the Indiana Fish Consumption Advisory or the latest Clean Water Act Impaired Water Body Report and you'll see that **WE** still have a lot of work to do. Water pollution remains a serious concern, as the people have told us.

If you were to say to me, "In one word, tell us what you think will be the biggest issue for IDEM's focus in the next year," I'd say, without hesitation, "Water." There is without a doubt a heightened sense of awareness about water quality. At IDEM, many of our goals and tasks will be directed at water quality issues.

Fundamental to the task of improved water quality is the philosophy that before you can clean up and prevent water pollution, you must know what pollutants are in our waters and where they come from. In that regard, look for a renewed emphasis on our Total Maximum Daily Load and our watershed assessment programs.

We are expanding the staff and budget for our TMDL program in an effort to better identify the impairments that exist in our state's surface waters. Once we have a better handle on those impairments, We can better identify and address the sources of the problems.

At IDEM, we will continue our scientific sampling for overall water quality, pesticides, *E. coli* and other contaminants on a watershed-by- watershed basis.

In fact, this is my second trip in three months to Elkhart County. In July, I waded into the Little Elkhart River at Bonneyville Mill to assist our staff demonstrate how we assess and monitor a stream's water quality. We received excellent media coverage, which we were hoping for, as a mechanism to educate the public about this process. Hopefully, you saw some of the coverage. Hopefully, you did *not* see the picture in the Elkhart Truth of Terry Coleman kissing one of the fish we collected that day. Seriously it was a great day, in a great little river, in a great setting, and with *all* of our efforts, we can preserve it for our great grandchildren's enjoyment.

We are enhancing our scientists' tool chests for these important tasks. For example, I mentioned *E. coli*, that nasty little bacteria that tells us that untreated sewage is in the water.

Everyone knows that *E. coli* is a major problem in surface waters throughout our state. But many of you may not know that our abilities to test for *E. coli* historically have been limited by logistics.

Water samples for *E. coli* must be prepared for analysis within six hours of being taken for the samples to be valid. And since the labs we used for *E. coli* testing are located in Indianapolis, our scientists had only six hours from the time they took their first daily sample to return to Indy.

As you can imagine, that dramatically limited their range and the number of samples they could take, which in turn limited the body of information we have on *E. coli* in Indiana waters.

That wasn't a good enough system.

So, we invested in a retrofitted van that is, in effect, a laboratory on wheels. Or, as I fondly refer to it: "The *E. coli* van". You may see it traveling the state. Our scientists can now leave Indianapolis on Mondays and spend the week B on the road B sampling waters in the watershed they're working in, obtaining results as they go.

As a result, we are able to take and process **twice as many** *E. coli* samples as in the past. And, I'm pleased to tell you, we're saving about \$100,000 a year in the process.

*E. coli*, of course, comes from a variety of point and nonpoint sources. And we will continue our focus on these areas. Two examples are the SRF program and various efforts with the agricultural industry.

As you may have heard in recent newscasts, we have tripled the amount of low-interest, State Revolving Loan funds we've given to local municipalities since 1996. These funds can be used to address point-source wastewater problems that can contribute to untreated sewage reaching our surface waters.

SRF funds can also be used to upgrade drinking water systems, but thus far, the bulk of the loan dollars have been used for wastewater projects.

Altogether, we have given \$759 million in SRF loans . . . that's good news.

In Fiscal Year 1999, we awarded 31 loans totaling \$170 million; in FY 2000, those numbers jumped to 81 loans totaling more than \$355 million. We expect to hit the \$1Billion mark during this current fiscal year.

Locally B \$9.3M to Goshen in '93 for wastewater improvements, and will be applying for additional funds to increase capacity.

We also are in the final stages of a longstanding rulemaking process for confined feeding operations to further address the non-point source issues related to manure management at such facilities.

And, working with the Department of Natural Resources and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, we announced last Friday that we are making \$2 million in grant funds available to livestock producers to combat non-point- source pollution from their operations. They can use the grants to take steps to keep manure from migrating into surface and ground water.

Obviously, water will be a major focus for us at IDEM in the near future, but certainly not the only one.

As I am sure you heard just before lunch, if you attended the session with Mike Brooks and John Welch, we are just as committed to cleaning up our air in the coming months as we will be with cleaning up the water.

We are working hard on rules that will require utilities and large industrial boilers to reduce their ozone-producing nitrogen oxide emissions by over 65% from 1990 levels. These rules will bring our four ozone- nonattainment counties B Lake, Porter, Clark and Floyd B into compliance with health-based federal regulations on ozone, or smog and meets the requirements of EPA's SIP call as well.

Let me also tell you about another Elkhart County company that has made tremendous strides in cleaning up the air: Global Glass. Its owner has a fairly straightforward philosophy about business and the environment: "You owe it to your neighbors to be as environmentally responsible as you can be in your business practices." Those are the words of Gary Beck. After a five-year research and development phase, Global Glass began producing engineered plastic running boards for RVs. And in developing this innovative clean manufacturing technology, Global Glass cut its styrene emission by 95%! Is Gary in the audience today? If so, please stand for some well-deserved applause.

You saw from the presentation before lunch that our monitors have found styrene in the air in Elkhart County. Today, in Indianapolis, the Indiana Air Pollution Control Board is holding a hearing on a rule that will require users of styrene in the fiberglass industry to meet aggressive industry-wide standards. My staff worked closely with the industry here in Elkhart County to assure that compliance with these standards would not compromise product quality and would provide a level playing field for all companies.

Let me touch on a couple other areas of IDEM's focus and direction before hitting you with that last set of numbers.

In the area of solid waste, we'll continue our campaign to eliminate the blight of illegal tire dumps on the Indiana landscape and the human health threats they pose. ATWOOD B 3.5 to 4M tires (35,000 to 40,000 tons) in pile. Began Feb 2000. Removed to date: 1.26M tires (12,670 tons (about 1/3). To be completed by Spring 2000.

We will also proceed with projects to remove toxic chemical threats from Superfund sites throughout the state.

Working with local communities, we will aggressively move to convert brownfields from costly eyesores to useful, revenue-producing pieces of property.

And in OPPTA, we'll continue to work with Indiana industries and businesses -- from wood finishing shops to vehicle maintenance shops to fiber reinforced plastic operations to large manufacturers -- to make their facilities as environmentally friendly as possible. The Northern Regional Office recently hired Jim Weingart to work with regional industries on OPPTA programs. Please meet him.

Now, I'm ready to throw the last set of numbers at you.

The **Gallup poll** I referred to earlier posed this question to its respondents:

"Which of the following should have primary responsibility for solving our nation's environmental problems? 1) the government, 2) business and industry, or 3) citizens' groups and individual citizens"

- 34% said government
- 33% said business and industry
- 32% said citizen's groups and individual citizens.

That's a three-way tie.

Now, it seems to me that all of the numbers we've waded through today send a pretty clear message for us.

The people we all answer to, through our government and our businesses, understand full well the environmental threats we as a society face, and they want something done about it.

More importantly, they think that **We** - you, me and them - are equally responsible for making the water, air and land safe for them and their children.

They understand that **We** share equal responsibility for accomplishing this most important of tasks, that **We** all must be partners in this effort.

I ask you to join me in this cooperative effort to fulfill the people's wishes, not just in the year ahead, but throughout the decade and new century we have just begun.

Thank You